

Serial No.: 10/563,660
Docket No.: 09792909-6521
Reply to the Office Action of September 15, 2010

REMARKS

A. Introduction

Claims 1-16 were pending and under consideration in the application.

In the Office Action of September 15, 2010, claims 1-16 were rejected. With this amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended.

B. Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Koitabashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,612,691) ("Koitabashi") to in view of Hirose (U.S. Patent No. 5,591,514) ("Hirose") with reference to the IEEE and ASTM Dictionary definition of room temperature.

Claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Koitabashi in view of Hirose and in further view of Koitabashi (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0097290) ("Koitabashi 2") and Sakaki (U.S. Pat. No. 6,174,056) ("Sakaki").

Applicant traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

In relevant part, each of the independent claims 1 and 4 recite discharging droplets of inks of a first color and a second color at an interval of 50 msec to 200 msec therebetween.

This is clearly unlike Koitabashi or Hirose which fail to disclose discharging inks of a first color and a second color with an interval of 50 msec to 200 msec therebetween. Instead, Koitabashi discloses covering an area on a surface with a single color using two ink droplets having a volume of 20 pl each discharged at an interval of 50 msec as opposed to discharging a single ink droplet having a volume of 40 pl. See Koitabashi, Col. 12, l. 13-Col. 13, l. 50. Hirose discloses the minimum ink shoot time for adjacent dots with different colors being 18 msec. See, Hirose, Col. 13, l 1-15. These references cannot be fairly viewed as disclosing discharging a first color ink and a second color ink at an interval of 50msec to 200msec because Koitabashi discloses discharging two ink

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droplets of the same color and Hoishe merely discloses an ink shoot time for inks of a different color being 18 msec.

Sakaki and Koitabashi 2 fail to disclose anything pertaining to the interval between the discharge of different color inks.

As the Applicants specification discloses, by discharging inks of a first color and a second color at an interval of 50 msec to 200 msec, the amount of penetration of the ink is increased which results in an increase in the image quality of the image recorded.

See, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2006/0158495, Paras. [0049]-[0066].

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 4 are patentable over the references and should be allowed. Likewise, claims depending from independent claims 1 or 4 include all of the limitations of these claims, and are allowable for at least the same reasons

C. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,
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Appl. No. 10/670,522
Amdt. Dated September 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2004